

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S900**

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TO:	The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander, Chairman, Senate General Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Allan Kincaid, Beth Quick, and Bryce Wilson		
DATE:	January 30, 2008	SBD:	2008047

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AUTHOR:	Senator Sheheen	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	25-3-220
SUBJECT:	Soldiers' Support Act of 2008		

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ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:  
A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:  
A Cost of Federal and/or Other Funds (See Below)

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**BILL SUMMARY:**

The proposed Bill amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding section 25-3-220 so as to create the "South Carolina Soldiers' Support Act of 2008", and to provide limited college tuition payments to the spouse and child of a deceased national guard member who died while performing his military duty.

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

Life Insurance Reimbursement Fund

According to the Adjutant General's Office there are approximately 10,526 National Guard men and women eligible to participate in the South Carolina National Guards' Life Insurance Reimbursement Fund. The annual cost to provide the maximum amount of coverage of \$400,000 with an annual premium of \$348 would be \$3,663,048. However, the impact on the General Fund of the State is at the General Assembly's discretion since reimbursement must be distributed on a pro rata basis if appropriated funds are insufficient to fully reimburse applicants. Some of these costs could be covered with gifts, grants, donations, and bequests to the fund.

Administration costs associated with documentation processing, are estimated at \$140,000 which includes one additional position, fringe benefits and other operating expenses. There would also be a one-time cost of \$20,000 for purchase of equipment. These costs would have an impact on the General Fund of the State.

Paid Tuition

According to the Adjutant General's Office the spouse and/or child of any member who dies while on active duty is eligible for paid tuition under a Federal program. Therefore, it is assumed that only the survivors of those members who lose their life while participating in training or monthly drills or called out by the Governor would apply for state paid tuition. There have been two or three guardsmen who have died under these circumstances in the past ten years which may result in a spouse or child applying for state paid tuition. The annual average in-state tuition and fees at senior public colleges and universities for FY 2007-08 is \$8,110. Assuming one member of each of these families enrolls in a public college in this state the annual cost could be estimated at \$24,330. However, if those individuals eligible for the Federal program chose to apply for the state program the cost could be \$81,100 annually assuming one individual per family applies. Approximately ten members of the Guard have died in the line of duty since September 11, 2001.

Approved by:



Harry Bell  
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget